

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), Applicant hereby requests a 3-month extension of the period for response to the outstanding Final Office Action, mailed November 18, 2003, i.e., up to and including May 18, 2004. A credit card authorization in the amount of \$475.00 to cover such an extension is included herewith. Please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Claims 1-64 are pending with claims 1-45 and 62-64 having been rejected. Claims 1-11, 15-20, 22-23, 25-30, 54 and 55 are amended herein. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 46-51 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-45 and 52-64 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatenable over U.S. Patent No. 6,341,237 to Hurtado in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,428 to Axelgaard et al.

In making the rejections, the Examiner has indicated that claim 1 as originally filed recited "locating means" which were purportedly not supported by the priority document and therefore both Hurtado and Axelgaard are prior art as to such elements of the claim.

In response, the claims have been amended to recite "central electrode marker" and "axillary markers." Both elements are supported in the priority document on page 23, line 14 to

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page 24 line 6, as well as being depicted in Fig. 10. Accordingly, as the priority document supports each and every limitation of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that neither Hurtado nor Axelgaard represent prior art to this application. This application claims priority to PCT/IE00/00004, filed on January 11, 2000, and claims the benefit of priority to Irish Application No. S990016, filed on January 11, 1999. That claim of priority has been perfected, through submission of a certified copy of the priority document. In contrast, Hurtado only claims priority to its U.S. filing date of October 25, 1999, similarly Axelgaard claims priority to October 27, 1999.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

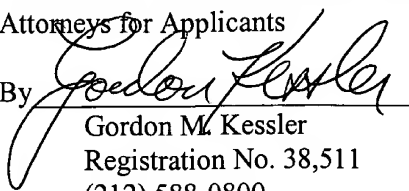
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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